

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A code division, multiple access (CDMA) receiver includes an RF section for receiving a CDMA signal through a channel; a circuit for determining an instantaneous total received power ( $I_o$ ) of the received CDMA signal; and a searcher that is one of enabled for operation or disabled from operation in accordance with value of  $I_o$ . The circuit includes a comparator for comparing  $I_o$  against a threshold, and for generating a searcher trigger signal only when  $I_o$  exceeds the threshold or, preferably, for generating the searcher trigger signal if  $I_o$  does not exceed the threshold, within some predetermined period of time.